REPORT
OF THE COMMISSION
AGAINST *APARTHEID* IN SPORTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 45 (A/45/45)

UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1990

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[14 September 1990]

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

29 August 1990

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith the report of the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, which was adopted unanimously by the Commission on 29 August 1990.

This report is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 40/64 G of 10 December 1985 and with article 12, paragraph 2, of the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) James Victor Gbeho
Chairman of the
Commission against Apartheid in Sports

His Excellency
Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 40/64 G of 10 December 1985, adopted the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports, which entered into force on 4 April 1988.

2. The Convention has so far been ratified or acceded to by 48 States and signed by 32 States. Lists of the States parties and the signatories are contained in annexes I and II, respectively.

3. The States parties to the Convention, at their meeting held on 2 March 1989, elected the following members of the Commission against Apartheid in Sports: Mr. Hamad Abdelaziz Al-Kawari (Qatar); Mr. Ahmad Fathi Al-Masri (Syrian Arab Republic); Mr. Fernando Alanís Camino (Mexico) (succeeded by Mr. Raul González Rodriguez, who was appointed at the inaugural session of the Commission); Mr. Hocine Djoudi (Algeria); Mr. James Victor Gbeho (Ghana); Mr. Lionel Hurst (Antigua and Barbuda); Mr. Besley Maycock (Barbados); Mr. Abraham Ordia (Nigeria); Mr. Vladimir Platonov (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic); Mr. Allan Rae (Jamaica); Mr. Tesfaye Shafo (Ethiopia); Mr. Claudio Teehankee (Philippines); Mr. Boris Topornin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics); Mr. Zoumana Traoré (Burkina Faso); and Mr. Georg Zorowka (German Democratic Republic).

4. The Commission conducted informal consultations on Monday morning, 27 August 1990, and began its formal session on 27 August 1990, in the afternoon. The provisional agenda of the session is included in annex III.

5. On 27 August 1990, the Commission re-elected Mr. James Victor Gbeho as Chairman, Messrs. Hamad Abdelaziz Al-Kawari and Georg Zorowka as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Besley Maycock as Rapporteur.

6. The Commission paid tribute to the memory of its member Mr. Claudio Teehankee of the Philippines, who passed away last year. The Commission also noted the resignation of Mr. Tesfaye Shafo of Ethiopia. In accordance with article 11 of the Convention, it approved the nominations of Mr. Sedfrey Ordoñez by the Government of the Philippines and of Mr. Mulu Wale by the Government of Ethiopia as its representatives in the Commission.

7. The following members of the Commission participated in the session: Messrs. Djoudi, Gbeho, Maycock, Ordia, Platonov, Rae, Topornin and Traoré.

8. Observers of the following liberation movements attended the session: African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC).

9. Observers of the following international and national sports organizations also attended the session: International Campaign against Apartheid in Sports, International Olympic Committee, World Boxing Council, American Co-ordinating Committee for Equality in Sports and Society and National Olympic and Sports Congress of South Africa.

10. The Chairman reported to the members on his participation in the consultative meeting of the International Olympic Committee's Commission on Apartheid and Olympism, held in Kuwait on 19 and 20 February 1990.

11. On behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, Mr. Gbeho delivered a statement at the consultative meeting. In his statement, he recognized that the meeting had been convened at a critical stage in the struggle of the people of South Africa, which had the growing support of the international community. He mentioned that, as stated in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa (General Assembly resolution 5-16/1, annex, of 14 December 1989), concerted and effective measures should be used to apply pressure on Pretoria to end apartheid. He stated that the Special Committee would continue to issue the register of sports contacts with South Africa and would continue its work to persuade and dissuade athletes from any sports contacts with South Africa. On behalf of the Commission, he also called for greater international support for the Special Committee's activities.

12. On 1 June 1990, the Chairman sent a message to the inaugural meeting of the National Sports Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. In his message he said that the sports boycott of South Africa and other sanctions had been an important aspect of the efforts at the United Nations over the past two decades at dismantling apartheid. He added that the Commission, which began its work only last year, would exert every effort to promote world-wide adherence to the sports boycott against apartheid in South Africa.

II. CONSULTATIONS

13. The Commission conducted a general debate on the developments concerning apartheid in sports, and members recalled the importance of events taking place inside and outside South Africa. They considered the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa a landmark in the efforts of the international community, and noted that in the Declaration the Assembly had called for the non-relaxation of existing measures aimed at encouraging the South African régime to eradicate apartheid until there was clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes in that country.

14. The Commission welcomed the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, as well as the lifting of the ban on political parties, and expressed the hope that further steps would be taken to eliminate apartheid in sports and society in South Africa.

15. The Commission considered the upholding of the sports boycott as essential and stressed that further steps should be taken in order to ensure that sports in South Africa were organized on a non-racial basis.

16. Furthermore, the Commission reiterated the view that the sports boycott could not be separated from the efforts of the international community to isolate South Africa in all fields and that such isolation would cease to exist only when apartheid is no more.

17. The representatives of the international and national sporting organizations that participated in the session reaffirmed that the sports boycott had gained momentum since the adoption of the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports (Assembly resolution 40/64 G, Annex), which they regarded as an effective tool in the international campaign for the elimination of apartheid.

III. CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

18. The Commission expressed once again its appreciation and support for the efforts of the Special Committee against Apartheid in promoting the boycott of apartheid in sports, in particular through the issuance of the register of sports contacts with South Africa.

19. The Commission took note of the increase in the number of sportsmen and sportswomen whose names had been deleted from the register. In this regard the Commission considered it essential that international sporting federations take action to persuade their prominent athletes to abide by the sports boycott of South Africa. The Commission pointed out that the decisions of the International Cricket Conference and the International Motorcyclist Federation to take disciplinary action against those who violated the sports boycott made it possible to have the names of all cricket players and motorcyclists deleted from the Register.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE STATES PARTIES

20. At its previous session the Commission received, in pursuance of article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, reports from 13 States parties on legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures to give effect to the provisions of the Convention. On 26 June 1990, the Chairman of the Commission addressed notes verbale to those States parties which had not sent their reports. The guidelines that were annexed to the preceding report of the Commission were attached to the notes verbale. Those States parties were requested to pay attention to the guidelines when preparing their respective reports. The guidelines were also sent to those States parties which had presented their reports in 1989, with a request for the submission of any additional information that may be deemed essential. To date, no additional information had been received. However, the Commission received reports from the following States that had not sent their reports in 1989: Bahamas, Nigeria, Philippines and Uruguay. The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations sent a note verbale referring to its report submitted in 1989.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21. The Commission decided to establish a sub-commission to undertake preliminary consideration of the reports of the States parties submitted in accordance with article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention. The members of the sub-commission and Mr. Besley Maycock, Chairman, and Chief Abraham Ordia, Mr. Sedfrey Ordoñez and Mr. Boris Topornin.

22. The Commission recognized that certain progress had been achieved in South Africa in bringing about the organization of sports on a non-racial basis. However, more effort was needed to achieve that goal. Regarding the changing political circumstances in South Africa, the Commission noted that there had also been limited progress in the elimination of obstacles to negotiations.

23. The Commission felt that the sports boycott and other sanctions must be maintained until profound and irreversible changes took place in South Africa.

24. The Commission likewise noted the contribution made by the international community to isolate South Africa from the Olympic Games and from sporting federations within the Olympic disciplines. It endorsed the resolution adopted on 19 February 1990 in Kuwait by the Commission on Apartheid and Olympism as approved by the Board of the International Olympic Committee in April 1990.

25. The Commission considered that the consultations with the International Olympic Committee and its Apartheid and Olympism Commission should be maintained and that intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Council of Europe and the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa, should be consulted and encouraged to provide effective assistance to non-racial sports bodies in organizing new and non-racial sports events in South Africa, thus contributing to the elimination of apartheid.

26. The Commission also reaffirmed that the register of sports contacts with South Africa should be maintained and that its publication should continue until profound and irreversible changes take place in South Africa.

27. The Commission considered the upcoming Sports Conference against Apartheid in Sports, scheduled to be held in Stockholm from 4 to 6 September 1990, as an important forum for a review of the sports boycott as well as for the discussion of an effective international strategy to assist the people of South Africa in the present stage of their struggle.

28. The Commission appealed to Governments, international, regional and national sporting bodies, and other governing bodies and players' associations:

(a) To provide material support and technical assistance to non-racial South African sports organizations and athletes sponsored by them;

(b) To support the efforts of the International Olympic Committee to strengthen the structural, administrative and other organizational aspects of black sports organizations in South Africa.

29. The Commission recommended that the General Assembly:

(a) Urge all those States which have signed the Convention but not ratified it to do so, and urge all States which have not signed the Convention to accede to it as soon as possible;

(b) Call upon States to extend co-operation to the Commission against Apartheid in Sports and to the Special Committee against Apartheid in matters relating to the boycott of apartheid sports;

(c) Urge States, organizations and individuals to maintain the sports boycott of South Africa;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services to the Commission to fulfill its mandate. Particular attention should be paid to additional publicity against apartheid sports.

30. The Commission urges those States parties which have not submitted their first report in accordance with article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention to do so at their earliest convenience.

ANNEX I

States parties to the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports

(States that had either ratified, acceded to or approved the Convention as at 27 August 1989)

Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Bolivia
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Czechoslovakia
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
German Democratic Republic
Ghana
Guinea
Guyana
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Jamaica
Jordan
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Nepal
Niger
Nigeria
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Qatar
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Senegal
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
Ukranian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Republic of Tanzania
Uruguay
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

ANNEX II

States signatory to the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports

Benin
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
China
Colombia
Cuba
Cyprus
Democratic Yemen
Ecuador
Egypt
Gabon
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Hungary
Indonesia
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Morocco
Nicaragua
Panama
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Trinidad and Tobago
Zaire

ANNEX III

Provisional agenda of the Commission against Apartheid in Sports

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Approval of the filling of vacancy.

3. Election of officers.

4. Organization of the work of the Commission.

5. General debate on developments concerning apartheid in sports and the situation of sports in South Africa.

6. Consultations with representatives of national and international sporting organizations.

7. Consideration of the reports of the States parties to the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports in accordance with article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

8. Preparation for the next session of the Commission.

9. Consideration of the draft report of the Commission to the General Assembly.

10. Other matters.

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